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ALBERTA AGRICULTURE
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ALBERTA
ACTS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

August, 1965

THE WHEAT BOARD MONEY TRUST ACT - H. W. Gaebel, Secretary to the Board

This Act provides for scholarships and bursaries awarded to young people of Alberta to assist them in attending the Agricultural and Vocational Colleges at Vermilion, Olds or Fairview. Awards in this connection are made at 4-H competitions held at the Agricultural Colleges during the summer. This Act also provides scholarships to graduate students from our Agricultural and Vocational Colleges to assist them in attending the University of Alberta in the Faculties of Agriculture or Household Economics. This Act is administered by the Board of Trustees.

THE LAND AND FOREST UTILIZATION ACT - J. L. Kerns, Chairman, Land Utilization Committee

This Act allows the Department to assist local governments - municipal districts, counties, etc. - with problem areas in their locality. The Committee can make recommendations and, if approved by the Government, carry these recommendations out.

ARDA - G. R. Sterling, Provincial ARDA Director

This office is directly involved with the administration of many varied ARDA projects. These projects are being carried out by several Departments of Government, the Research Council of Alberta and the University, but the overall administration, claims, etc. are channelled through this office.

FARM PURCHASE - K. G. Taylor, Chairman, Alberta Farm Purchase Board

The Farm Purchase Credit Act - Makes credit available to young farmers for the purchase of farm lands.

The Farm Home Improvement Act - Is designed to assist farmers by way of loans to improve their farm homes. The maximum amount of the loan is \$2,000.00 and the minimum repayment is \$100.00 per year with 10 years to repay the loan.

THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT - Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council - D. H. McCallum, Chairman; C. H. Ferries, Secretary.

The purpose and intent of this Act is to provide for the promotion, control and regulation of the marketing of agricultural products within the Province. It will provide producers with several alternatives in their effort to improve the marketing of their products such as producer marketing boards and two types of marketing commissions. A Marketing Council will assist the Minister in the administration of the Act. Amendments in 1965 provided for this broader scope.

THE FARM MACHINERY ACT

Recorded here so staff knows that such an Act exists - rather outdated in many respects.

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FIELD CROPS BRANCH - A. M. Wilson, Field Crops Commissioner

Acts

1. The Agricultural Service Board Act - This Act gives Municipal Districts, Counties and Improvement Districts the authority to set up Agricultural Service Boards in their areas. Such Boards advise local Councils and the Minister of Agriculture, or the Minister of Municipal Affairs, as the case may be, in matters of mutual concern relating to agriculture, particularly weed control, soil and water conservation programs, pest control, livestock diseases, and land utilization.
2. The Noxious Weeds Act - This Act names the weeds which are declared to be noxious in Alberta and sets out the duties of land owners and other persons or organizations in controlling and destroying such weeds. The Minister appoints regional Weed Supervisors to aid local Inspectors in carrying out weed control programs.
3. The Agricultural Pests Act - This Act provides for the supervision of municipal and provincial programs for the control of the five official pests named under this Act. These five pests are Bacterial Ring Rot of potatoes, Grasshoppers, Warble Fly of cattle, Coyotes, and Norway Rats.
4. The Soil Conservation Act - establishes the principle that land owners and occupiers have the obligation to protect the resources of the land. Municipalities may, by by-law, control the burning of stubble or removal of top soil.
5. The Agricultural Relief Advances Act - This Act makes provision for the advancing of loans to necessitous farmers for the purpose of obtaining seed, feed, and/or fuel oil. Loans become a charge against ensuing crops and a caveat is registered against the title of the land on which the commodities will be used.
6. The Seed Dealers' Act - Provides for the bonding and licensing of all dealers who purchase seed from producers. The purpose of this Act is to provide some measure of protection to producers by establishing certain minimum requirements with which dealers must comply.
7. The Seed Control Areas Act - Provides for the establishing of pure seed areas where seed production constitutes a major enterprise. A Seed Control Committee is formed with membership drawn from resident growers, thus maintaining local autonomy. This Committee may restrict within the area the growing of certain kinds, varieties and grades deemed undesirable to the general welfare.
8. The Coarse Grain Marketing Act - authorizes the Canadian Wheat Board as the sole marketing agency for coarse grains. Excluded are: (1) coarse grains that are cleaned to a seed grade in approved plants, and (2) coarse grains going to feed mills.
9. The Vegetable Sales Act - This Act establishes grades for various kinds of vegetables. Inspectors are appointed to enforce these grades.
10. The Bee Diseases Act - Under this Act every keeper of bees in Alberta is required to register annually. Permits are required for the purchase or sale of used bee equipment and for the movement of bee equipment from one area to another.
11. Honey Grading Regulations - provide for inspection of retail honey packs. Samples of honey are submitted by beekeepers for determination of class and grade.

Policies and Programs

- (1) Programs involving agreements with municipalities
 - (a) Payment of 50% of Supervisor's salary
 - (b) Education and publicity - \$100.00 to each Service Board
 - (c) Demonstrations - \$300.00 to each Board
Materials, equipment and labor to conduct demonstrations

- (1) Programs involving agreements with municipalities - contd.
 - (d) Special projects to encourage -
 - Soil conservation - wind and water erosion control
 - Weed control and use of herbicides
 - Pest control and use of pesticides
 - Roadside planting
 - Tree planting
 - Brucellosis control
 - Forage seed for soil reclamation
 - (e) Land reclamation projects under ARDA - for reclaiming land to put into production
 - (f) Supervision and reclamation of land.
- (2) Crop Improvement Projects
 - (a) Testing projects for new forage species and varieties
 - (b) Demonstration of forage mixtures for hay and pasture
 - (c) Soil and Crop Management Project under ARDA emphasizing forage in a planned crop rotation. This project is aimed at rural low income areas.
 - (d) Grassland Improvement Program - Farmers apply to participate in the project. In so doing they are given an outline suggesting management practices to follow. Farms are later scored and awards offered.
- (3) Soil Conservation and Weed Control Projects
 - (a) These projects are designed to demonstrate methods of conserving soil and controlling weeds. Seed, fertilizer, and chemicals are supplied at reduced cost to a limited number of selected participants, in each District Agriculturist's area, who agree to follow detailed recommended practices.
 - (b) Seeding shoulders and edges of newly constructed highways. As soon as the highway is completed the Field Crops Branch has undertaken to seed areas that would soon otherwise be infested with weeds.
- (4) Crop Protection and Pest Control Projects
 - (a) Grasshoppers:- The Department makes available recommended insecticides to municipalities at prices approved by the Minister. Municipalities supply farmers with the insecticide required at prices determined by the Council and the Department of Agriculture.
 - (b) Rat Control:- Grants are made to municipalities along the Saskatchewan border to assist them in employing Pest Control Officers. Warfarin bait is supplied by the Department and bait stations are set at all times to prevent rat migrations from Saskatchewan. Co-ordination of all agencies for province-wide program.
 - (c) Coyote Control Program:- Operates through municipalities. Cyanide guns, strychnine pellets and 1080 baits are used. A training program qualifies provincial and municipal officers, who are authorized to train and supply guns and pellets to land owners. 1080 baits are prepared and set by government officers only.
 - (d) Bacterial Ring Rot of Potatoes:- All commercial acreages are inspected just prior to digging. Planting is by permit in commercial areas. Growers with infected crops are directed to dispose of crop into safe channels. Premises, equipment and cellars must be disinfected and disease-free seed is a requirement of a permit.
 - (e) Warble Control:- Demonstration spraying with new systemic insecticides. Organization of Spraying Associations. Testing of new pesticides, area control, etc. Grants to municipalities for sprayers and pesticides.

(4) Crop Protection and Pest Control Projects - contd.

- (f) Magpies, Pocket Gophers and Rabbits:- Information is supplied on methods of control by poisons and repellants, etc.
- (g) Investigation, field testing of pesticides, and recommendations for control of plant diseases, insect pests, and animal pests. Investigation of pesticide residue problems.

(5) Horticulture

- (a) Policy for encouraging farmers to plant:
 - Farmstead shelterbelts
 - Field windbreaks
 - Roadside plantings
- (b) Information and guidance to Horticultural Societies
- (c) Operation of Tree Nursery, Oliver
- (d) Demonstration orchards and other plantings
- (e) Production of trees and shrubs for other Departments of Government, forestry, parks, schools.

(6) Horticultural Station, Brooks

- (a) The Station is engaged in the multiplication of trees for farm distribution.
- (b) The testing and selection of new horticultural trees, fruits, vegetables and flowers
- (c) The encouragement of industry relating to horticulture
- (d) Pilot operations related to production, storage, processing and marketing of fresh vegetable crops

(7) Apiculture

- (a) Hive management to obtain economic production
- (b) Control of bee diseases, namely, American Foul Brood, Nosema
- (c) Use of antibiotics, apiary sanitation

(8) Special Projects

- (a) The policy of developing centralized Seed Cleaning Plants
- (b) The business management of seed plants

(9) Crop Clinic - The Clinic serves all district offices by providing:

- (a) Diagnosis of disease in plant materials
- (b) Identification of specimens, plants, insects
- (c) Surveys to determine probable extent of outbreaks
- (d) Reviewing literature on pests and disease.

Crop Inspection and Pest Control Projects - contd.

(1) Biological, chemical, physical and cultural - Information is supplied to growers at control by persons and specialists, etc.

(2) Investigation, field testing of pesticides and recommendations for control of plant diseases, insect pests, and animal pests. Investigation of pesticide resistance problems.

Recommendations

(3) Policy for encouraging farmers to plant:
Perennial crops
Field crops
Home garden plantings

(4) Information and guidance to horticultural societies

(5) Operation of Pest Survey, Officer

(6) Demonstration orchards and other plantings

(7) Production of tapes and films for other departments of Government:
Forestry, Parks, Schools

Horticultural Station, Ottawa

(8) The Station is engaged in the collection of trees for their distribution

(9) The Station and its staff are engaged in the collection of trees, vegetables

and flowers

(10) The Station is engaged in the collection of trees for their distribution

(11) The Station is engaged in the collection of trees for their distribution

of fresh vegetable crops

(12) The Station is engaged in the collection of trees for their distribution

(13) The Station is engaged in the collection of trees for their distribution

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(22) The Station is engaged in the collection of trees for their distribution

LIVESTOCK BRANCH - W. H. T. Mead, Livestock Commissioner

Acts

1. Alberta Livestock and Livestock Products Act - Basically a marketing act. Provides authority for enabling legislation that might be required relative to regulations under the Federal Act.

Alberta Regulations in effect under this Act:

- (a) 373/58 - "Regulation Governing the Licensing of Stockyards"
- (b) 341/62 - "Regulation Governing the Licensing and Bonding of Livestock Dealers, Livestock Dealer's Agents, and Selling Agents"
- (c) 258/62 - "Regulation Respecting the Ribbon Branding of Beef, Veal, Lamb and Mutton Carcasses"

2. Horned Cattle Purchases Act - Provides authority for deduction on cattle marketed with horns. Interpretation of horns made by brand inspectors; funds to Horned Cattle Trust Account for livestock improvement.

- (a) Order-in-Council 1176/53 sets the deduction at \$2.00 per head of horned cattle
- (b) Order-in-Council 1248/38 provides authority for Ministerial Order covering a broad range of livestock improvement projects.

3. Feeder Association Guarantee Act - This is the legislative authority for guarantee of loans to Feeder Associations.

- (a) Regulations governing details of operation from year to year are established by Ministerial Order.

4. The Brand Act - provides for registration of brands. Work conducted under supervision of Brand Recorder.

5. The Stock Inspection Act - Legislative requirement and authority for the Alberta Brand Inspection Service.

6. Improvement District Stray Animals Act - Authority and procedures governing pound districts in Local Improvement Districts.

7. Domestic Animals (Municipalities) Act - Authority and procedures governing herd law, by-laws and pounds in municipalities and counties.

8. Pure Bred Sire Areas Act - Authority for establishment of pure bred sire areas after petition by Municipal District, County or Local Improvement District.

9. Artificial Insemination of Domestic Animals Act - Provides authority for regulation of A.I. in Alberta.

- (a) Regulation No. 50/64 and amendment by O/C 459/65 provide for licensing of A.I. Units and technicians.

10. The Line Fence Act - Sets out procedure of arbitration in cases of dispute over fences.

Policies and Programs

- (1) Cattle Improvement Policy - Two sections, A and B. Basically, provides assistance to farmers in the purchase of pure bred bulls. Policy financed through Horned Cattle Trust Account.
- (2) Swine Improvement Policy - Two sections, A and B. Provides assistance in the purchase and transportation of pure bred boars. Financed by appropriation.
- (3) Record of Performance Sow Assistance Policy - Provides assistance on high scoring sows. Designed to encourage more R.O.P. testing. Financed by appropriation.

Policies and Programs - contd.

- 4) Sheep Improvement Policy - Two sections, A and B. Provides assistance in the purchase and transportation of pure bred rams. Financed by appropriation.
- 5) Record of Performance Work
 - (a) Swine - Federal Policy. Provincial assistance with Alberta R.O.P. committee. Livestock Commissioner is Chairman of Committee. Province pays expenses of producer members to meetings.
 - (b) R.O.P. Sheep - unofficial program. Largely advanced extension by Swine and Sheep Supervisor.
 - (c) R.O.P. Beef Cattle - This Branch operates the Alberta program under a broad Federal-Provincial agreement. Financed from the Horned Cattle Trust Account.
- 6) Artificial Insemination Policy - Policy is one of organizational and financial assistance to new co-operative A.I. units. Financed from Horned Cattle Trust Account.
- 7) 4-H Dairy Heifer Calf Policy - Assistance in providing project calves to 4-H dairy clubs. Financed from Horned Cattle Trust Account.
- 8) Toronto Royal Winter Fair Livestock Exhibit - Arranged and co-ordinated by this Branch. Alberta Livestock Board acts in advisory capacity.
- 9) Livestock Listing Bureau - Provides service in locating, procuring and shipping breeding stock not covered by assistance policies. No financial assistance other than service provided by branch personnel.

DAIRY BRANCH - D. H. McCallum, Dairy Commissioner, R. P. Dixon, Assistant Dairy Commissioner

Acts

The Dairymen's Act - An Act respecting the licensing and control of plants manufacturing and processing dairy products. Regulations governing the production, manufacture, sanitation, grading and composition of dairy products under The Dairymen's Act. One of the main functions of this legislation is to assure that producers are paid for milk and cream on the basis of correct weights, grades and tests.

The Frozen Food Act - An Act respecting the regulation, licensing and control of frozen food locker plants and specialized processing plants and to provide guarantees for co-operative associations operating such plants.

Regulations under The Frozen Food Act govern: plant construction, maximum temperatures, sanitation, packaging materials, and records.

The Margarine Act - An Act respecting the regulation and control of margarine. Prevents the sale of margarine imitating butter in color and the serving of colored margarine in public eating places. Regulations require that labelling of packages conform to requirements established by the Minister of Agriculture and include the types of oils used in percentage of the total.

Policies and Programs

Cow Testing and Dairy Herd Improvement

An owner-sampler program of cow testing to enable herd owners to determine the individual level of production of their cows. Herd owners are assessed a cow testing fee based on the size of their herd and the type of program in which they enroll, i.e. mail order or route plan.

olicies and Programs - contd.

Laboratory Control Service

- (a) Analyses to determine milk plant sanitation and the quality of milk and milk products.
- (b) Radioactive fallout in dairy products
- (c) Adulteration of dairy products, antibiotic testing of milk and cream, pesticide residue analyses of foods and other agricultural commodities
- (d) Q-fever survey program.
- (e) Mould, yeast and bacteria counts on creamery butter as an index of plant sanitation and quality of the finished product
- (f) Bacteriological and chemical analyses of powdered and frozen eggs
- (g) Quality control of meat curing brines.

Inspection and Instruction

- (a) All licensed dairy processing plants including creameries, cheese factories, condenseries, fluid milk pasteurizing units and frozen food plants are inspected at regular intervals. The district specialists conduct regular in-line sampling at processing plants to ensure that bacteriological quality and standards of composition are maintained.
- (b) Maintain a quality control program and promote efficient plant operation to secure the highest prevailing market prices. This service assists in developing and expanding market outlets for high quality dairy products.
- (c) Instruct dairy plant personnel in manufacturing techniques and also enable employees to qualify as licensed graders and testers of milk and cream.
- (d) Supervise and instruct the bulk tank operator to assure the correct weights, samples and quality of milk.
- (e) Check for proper installation, level, calibration and effective cleaning and sanitization of the bulk tanks on milk producing farms.
- (f) Weighing and issuing weight certificates for creamery butter and cheddar cheese.
- (g) Consolidate, forward and arrange transportation for exhibits of dairy products to leading Canadian and Commonwealth exhibitions.

Educational

- (a) Preparation and distribution of monthly newsletters, demonstration meetings, field days, farm visits, radio and T V appearances.
- (b) Co-operate with the Department of Dairy and Food Science at the University of Alberta in conducting dairy short courses.

Statistical Information

Collect on a weekly basis statistical information and compile monthly and annual reports concerning Alberta milk production and utilization of same. This information is made available to the industry, as well as to the Federal and other Provincial Governments.

POULTRY BRANCH - Robt. H. McMillan, Poultry Commissioner

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Alberta Livestock and Livestock Products Act - Regulations in effect under this Act:

- a. Regulations Respecting the Production and Sale of Chicks
- b. Regulations Respecting the Purchase and Sale of Shell Eggs
- c. Regulations Respecting the Purchase, Grading and Sale of Dressed and Eviscerated Poultry
- d. Regulations Respecting the Licensing and Bonding of Dealers in Poultry and Poultry Products

Policies and Programs

- a. Alberta Hatching Egg Flock Policies
- b. Alberta Random Sample Test
- c. Hatchery Sanitation Program
- d. Broiler Production Cost Comparisons
- e. Monthly Broiler Situation Analysis
- f. Producer Vendor Survey
- g. Laying Cage Plant Survey
- h. Egg Quality Studies.

Other activities include annual hatchery short course, economic surveys and market analyses as indicated by agricultural trends, service calls to producers and trade, extension through meetings, established poultry associations and councils, personal contact, TV and radio.

Regional offices are maintained throughout the Province staffed by poultry specialists available for consultation on all phases of production and marketing.

FUR FARM BRANCH - R. W. Gillies, Supervisor

Fur Farms Act - Regulations under this Act govern licensing and registering of fur farmers and assist the Department of Agriculture in compiling statistics as to the value and extent of the fur ranch industry. They establish certain stipulations as to pens, enclosures, sanitation, disease control, etc.

Policies and Programs -

Educational and extension work with fur farmers is conducted by the Fur Farm Supervisor, who advises on selection of breeding stock, ranch management, and on feeding, pelting and marketing practices.

EXTENSION SERVICE - S. S. Graham, Director

The Agricultural Societies Act - This Act provides for incorporation of Agricultural Societies and gives authority to the Minister to determine their specific activities which may be supported by grants from public funds.

The Names of Homes Act - Makes it possible for a home owner to register for his exclusive use a name for his farm or home.

Policies and Programs

The District Agriculturist Service- has established 45 offices at district points. These offices are staffed with some 60 professionally qualified agriculturists whose duty is to serve district farmers through provision of information and guidance in farm practices and to represent the Department of Agriculture in the operation of its various policies and programs. Subject matter specialists whose work supplements and assists that of the District Agriculturists include Agricultural Engineers.

The District Home Economist Service - employs 22 qualified Home Economists at district points and 4 subject matter Specialists at headquarters. Their work involves lectures, demonstrations, radio, T V, and newspaper columns for rural and urban groups and individuals, on topics related to homemaking, money management, consumer information, home planning and remodelling, etc. They organize and supervise 4-H Girls' Clubs and 4-H programs in their districts. They are involved in planning and carrying out community programs, some jointly with the District Agriculturists, such as Farm and Home Development and Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development.

Federal-Provincial Farm Labour Program - Attempts to supply emergency and seasonal farm labour to farmers in co-operation with Federal Department of Labour. The Department shares with the Federal Government the cost of transportation of farm workers.

The Master Farm Family Program - designed to pay tribute to farm families who have made a success of farming, homemaking and citizenship. No more than one family in each of five regions is selected each year. Tangible recognition consists of an attractive plaque and a cheque for \$1,000.00.

Agricultural Fairs and Specialized Fairs - held by Agricultural Societies, such as Seed Shows, Horticultural or Flower Shows, and Livestock Shows. Seventy-five per cent of prize money paid out by Fairs is reimbursed by the Department with a maximum of \$1,500.00 for "C" Fairs and \$4,000.00 for "B" Fairs. A capital grant of \$1,000.00 can also be earned by "B" Fairs only. Judges are supplied to "C" Fairs including their expenses. Judges supplied to "B" Fairs when requested, but expenses are partially paid by Federal Government.

Schools for Farm Families - are conducted by the Branch of from two days to a week on timely subjects. Included are Welding Schools, Electrical Schools, Building Schools, Farm Machinery Servicing Schools, Sewing Clinics, Home Design Schools, Home Management Courses, Farm and Home Management Schools and other short courses.

Publications, Information and Guidance - supplied to farm families through 45 offices staffed by District Agriculturists, Home Economists, and aided by specialists within the Department and other agencies.

The 4-H Club Program - offers training in citizenship, agriculture, and home economics for rural young people on a club basis. Supervision is provided by headquarters staff, District Agriculturists and Home Economists, with guidance at the local level by one or more adult leaders. A variety of agricultural projects is available to boys and girls, while homemaking projects may be chosen by Girls' Clubs.

IO AND INFORMATION DIVISION - Warren Wismer, Supervisor

The Radio and Information Division produces a daily radio program and two weekly agricultural news releases. Ten stations now carry the noonday broadcast, "Call of the Land", as a province-wide radio service through which farm families are kept aware of latest happenings in agriculture and receive topical information from agricultural authorities.

The weekly publications, "Science and the Land", and "Farm Notes", provide reports of farm research at the University, Agricultural Research Stations and Experimental Farms in Alberta, and offer pertinent suggestions from home economists and agricultural specialists on the staff of the Department of Agriculture. These releases go to press, radio, government personnel, libraries, commercial concerns and other organizations associated with agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS BRANCH - Dr. G. R. Purnell, Director

Policies and Programs

Statistics - the Branch collects, analyzes and disseminates statistics on production, prices and values of various agricultural commodities produced in Alberta. This program is conducted co-operatively with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and includes official crop reports and agricultural estimates.

Production Studies - Data and information on the cost and returns involved in the production of specific farm products are collected, analyzed and distributed to farmers and others interested. Examples of this are the studies on fluid milk, oilseeds, fresh vegetables and specialty crops.

Extension Farm Economics - A thorough extension education program is conducted with farmers and ranchers on the principles of farm management, marketing and agricultural development. This work is done through the Extension Branch and in co-operation with other provincial and federal branches and agencies.

Rural Development Research - A comprehensive socio-economic study of all resources (natural and human) in various areas of the Province is made. This serves as a basis for action programs under ARDA to improve income and employment opportunities in the area studies.

Consultation with departmental administrators, personnel from other branches, and other agencies on government policies and programs and their economic significance to Alberta agriculture.

PRIMARY SERVICES BRANCH - Dr. J. G. O'Donoghue, Director

The Livestock Diseases Act - To protect and maintain the health of Alberta livestock, to reduce the economic loss from disease, and where indicated to safeguard human health. It provides the authority for regulations that deal with all aspects.

Regulations

Brucellosis Control

Inspection and Sanitation standards for Class C, D, E, F and G stockyards

Livestock Medicines and Poultry Vaccines

Licensing of slaughterhouses and humane slaughter methods.



Policies and Programs

1. Policies required by regulations under the Act.
2. Diagnostic Laboratories - complete veterinary diagnostic facilities in Edmonton and a regional laboratory in Lethbridge. While not a primary function, limited research and study projects are carried out arising from field problems.
3. Swine Health Program - in co-operation with breeders of purebred swine to establish minimal disease herds
4. Bovine Mastitis Control - provides supplies, laboratory facilities and direction for mastitis control on a herd basis
5. Disease Investigations - directly as required and/or as related to problems or services in policies of other Branches and Departments, Lands and Forests, Health, etc.
6. Adult Education - to meet the requests of other Branches, agencies and industry for meetings and educational conferences
7. Disease Statistic Reporting - the reporting of all veterinary diagnosis from selected veterinary practices to complement disease statistic information gathered from laboratory and inspection service records. It is a responsibility to be informed of the disease situation in the Province at any time.
8. Administration of Grants - to students attending a Veterinary College.

AGRICULTURAL AND VOCATIONAL COLLEGES BRANCH - J. E. Hawker, Director

Acts

1. The Agricultural Schools Act - Originally assented to in 1913, revised or amended 1922, 1942, 1950, 1953 and 1956.

Policies and Programs

- (1) Under the Act, Schools of Agriculture and Home Economics have been operated at Olds and Vermilion since 1913. In 1951, a third school was opened at Fairview in the Peace River area. In 1963 the name "Schools of Agriculture and Home Economics" was changed to "Agricultural and Vocational Colleges".
- (2) Traditionally the function of the Schools has been to train young men for farming and young women for homemaking. A developing trend is to provide training for young men and women for off-the-farm employment. In this area courses in Horticulture and Assessment and Appraisal have been added at Olds and a course for A.I. Technicians at Vermilion.
- (3) Under the Act, a Board of Agricultural Education, chaired by the Minister of Agriculture, advises him in matters pertaining to the administration of the Colleges. The Board meets once each year prior to June 30th. The Director of Agricultural and Vocational Colleges is Secretary of the Board.

WATER RESOURCES BRANCH - F. L. Grindley, Director

Acts

1. The Water Resources Act (and regulations) - outlines the manner in which an individual or group of individuals may acquire a license or legal authority to divert or impound water. Licenses have priority both as to time of filing of the application and also as to preferential use. Domestic use has the highest priority followed by municipal, industrial, irrigation, water power and other purposes. Beneficial use is the measure of the license. The Minister and the Legislative Council have wide powers under the Act and it is the basic water legislation.

Acts - Water Resources Branch - contd.

2. The Irrigation Districts Act - Under the terms of this Act a group of individuals can form a self-governing authority to build, operate and maintain an irrigation project. A Board of Trustees is elected by the ratepayers and the powers of the Board are similar to the Council of a Municipal District which includes the raising of funds for essential purposes.
3. The Drainage Districts Act - This Act is similar in many essentials to The Irrigation Districts Act. The Drainage Districts Act applies in areas where water is a nuisance and must be drained to a sufficient outlet.
4. Other Legislation - includes the Ground Water Control Act and Regulations; Water Users' Districts Act; Private Ditches Act; Act to Incorporate the Eastern Irrigation District; Act to Incorporate the Western Irrigation District; United Irrigation District Act; Act to ratify Agreements between the Dominion and Alberta in connection with the use of Lake Minnewanka and the Ghost River for Water Power Purposes; Act relating to the Acquisition of the Undertaking of the A.R. & I. and the C.P.R.; Act relating to the Colonization of the United Irrigation District; Act relating to the Colonization of the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District; Act respecting Crop Share Payment and Purchase of Certain Irrigation Lands; Irrigation Projects Act; St. Mary and Milk Rivers Development Act; Bow River Development Act; and Natural Resources Transfer Agreement 1930 (Water Resources transferred from Dominion to Province).

Policies and Programs

Basic Functions and Services of the Water Resources Office:

- (1) To measure, survey and assess all sources of water supply in the Province of Alberta.
- (2) Under the provisions of the Water Resources Act to license all works for the diversion of water for domestic, municipal, industrial, irrigation, water power and other purposes.
- (3) To determine if the licensees are receiving supplies of water in accord with their licenses in order that the direct and indirect investments of the licensees will be protected in perpetuity.
- (4) To investigate all drainage proposals or works whether large or small with respect to adequate outlets and any other relevant factors.
- (5) In co-operation with the Dominion Government to formulate and execute plans for hydrometric service.
- (6) In co-operation with the Dominion Government to formulate and execute plans for water development in the drought areas of the Province.
- (7) In co-operation with the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and with the Dominion Government to formulate plans for an equitable apportionment of waters in the Saskatchewan River Basin.
- (8) To supervise all irrigation engineering development authorized under legislation of the Government of Alberta.
- (9) To supervise all authorized drainage works under the provisions of legislation of the Government of Alberta.
- (10) To supervise all authorized hydroelectric developments in the Province of Alberta.
- (11) To license and control the drilling of wells for ground water supplies.
- (12) In co-operation with other agencies of the Government of Alberta to investigate water problems of mutual interest.

- (13) Under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture and the Executive Council of the Province of Alberta to execute any proposals concerning water control that are deemed to be in the public interest and fall within the provisions of the Water Resources Act.
- (14) To maintain and preserve in perpetuity all surveys, plans, reports and other data relating to the above functions and services.
- (15) Part IV of The Water Resources Act empowers the Minister with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council:
 - (a) to construct, operate, maintain and repair works and undertakings within the meaning of the Act
 - (b) to enter into agreements with cities, towns, villages, drainage districts, municipal districts or counties providing for works or undertakings in the nature of -
 - (i) a drainage project or irrigation project or a drainage and irrigation project
 - (ii) a water power project
 - (iii) a water supply project
 - (iv) a river project or flood control project or a river and flood control project
 - (v) a water supply development project

In these agreements the Minister may indicate the amount of financial assistance that the Government has agreed to provide. This is usually a percentage of the cost but a maximum contribution is also established.

COLONIZATION BRANCH - C. J. McAndrews, Manager

Acts

1. The St. Mary and Milk Rivers Development Act
2. The Bow River Development Act
3. The Lethbridge Northern Colonization Act

The Colonization Manager as a Corporate Sole for each project acquires and disposes of land for settlement, advances land development funds to settlers, and supervises an irrigation farm development program.

Water rights for the farms of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers Development and the Bow River Development are also administered by the Branch.

4. Other Legislation - The Colonization Branch acts as a service agency on all matters pertaining to irrigation. All of the many pieces of legislation pertaining to irrigation relate to the Branch's functions in its service to irrigation projects, the Irrigation Council, the Water Resources Branch, and water users.

Policies and Programs

Soil and water conservation is the objective of this Branch. Programs and procedures function out of four divisions, several committees, and a Trust Account.

1. Land Settlement Division (as described above under "Acts")
2. Land Development Division - This Division is responsible for:
 - (a) advice and recommendations for the planning and development of farm irrigation systems
 - (b) appraisal of lands for development purposes
 - (c) engineering surveys to service development projects
 - (d) layout of farm irrigation systems which includes the design of farm distribution systems, land levelling, farm surface drainage, and water control structures
 - (e) counsel on irrigation practices and land use after development
 - (f) evaluation of topography for irrigation project feasibility, and the establishment of official irrigable acreages
 - (g) extension services to irrigation, in co-operation with the Agricultural Extension Service.

Policies and Programs - Cononization Branch - contd.

3. Soils and Drainage Division - This Division is responsible for:
 - (a) investigations of saline and sodium soils, seepage and ground water, and flooding
 - (b) advice and counsel on canal and reservoir liners, construction of drainage systems, conservation and reclamation practices, ground water development, and reconstruction of irrigation project works
 - (c) the design of water storage or conveyance as related to seepage and drainage
 - (d) soil classification
 - (e) laboratory analysis of soils and water.
4. Irrigation Engineering Division - This Division is responsible for:
 - (a) engineering design criteria as a standard for development designs, water control structures, sprinkler irrigation, and irrigation distribution systems
 - (b) irrigation gauge to indicate the timing and amount of irrigation application to crops
 - (c) farm irrigation system evaluations
 - (d) extension on irrigation practices and techniques in co-operation with the Agricultural Extension Service
5. Land Levelling Trust Account
 - to provide and operate land development equipment at cost for the preparation of land for irrigation farming
6. Drainage Committee
 - to advise the Minister and to program the administration of drainage investigations and construction, the processing of damage claims, and the purchase of damaged land
7. Land Classification
 - to investigate topography and soils for project feasibility reports, and to establish official irrigable acreage classifications for assessment purposes
8. Irrigation Planning Board

The Manager, as a member of the Board, advises on studies pertaining to land, soils, and water in relation to the feasibility of irrigation developments
9. Irrigation Policy Committee

The Manager, as Chairman of the Committee, in association with the Director of the Farm Economics Branch and the Chief Engineer of the Water Resources Branch, has the responsibility and duties of developing and recommending irrigation policies to the Minister
10. Groundwater Advisory Committee - Alberta Research Council

The Manager and Supervisor of Soils and Drainage Division have been respective appointments to this Committee, which participates and advises on groundwater investigations and research within the Province
11. International Hydrologic Decade

The Supervisor of Soils and Drainage Division, as a member of the Alberta International Hydrologic Decade Committee, is co-ordinating participation by this Branch toward the advancement of hydrologic knowledge.

